

# THE HOLY JOURNAL

## FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF RICHMOND PARK

[www.fbrichmondpark.com](http://www.fbrichmondpark.com)

### Emmanuel! God With Us!

L.A. Davis

Greetings in the Most Majestic Name of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ! We are indeed grateful and blessed to see the *dynamic* month of **DECEMBER 2011!** PRAISE GOD!

Matthew 1:23 states "*Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call His name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us.*" I LOVE reliving the Christmas story because it speaks of our coming Saviour Jesus Christ! We see so much love, joy, hope, and the plans of the Father being

carried out in the most miraculous ways!

God loved us so much that He gave us JESUS, the Greatest Gift that will ever be given! Ever! We see the heart of God in the Christmas story. He does not desire for any of us to perish. We find that in John 3:16 and 2 Peter 3:9. He longs for a relationship *with us!* He desires to be *with us!*

Jesus, in His human form, was physically *with* people on earth from infancy to the age of about 33!

**Emmanuel! God with us!** After He completed His work here on earth, He sent us His Precious Holy Spirit, to live *within us*, spiritually forever! **Emmanuel! God with us!**

What can we do this Christmas season to show that **Emmanuel** is truly *with us*, but most importantly, that we are truly *with Him?!?!?*

*"Come, come let us adore Him; Kneel down before Him; Worship and adore Him; E-MAN-UEL, we worship YOU"!!!*

Have a **Merry & "Christ-Centered" Christmas!!!** In His Love...



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### From the Pastor's Desk

*"His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace". Isaiah 9:6b*

Greetings in the Blessed Name of Jesus! The blessed month of December 2011 is here. To God we give all the thanks, praise, and glory for bringing us to this point in time, so we can all say "Thank You Lord, for all Your blessings"!

For truly it was His Grace, Mercy, and His Love that

has allowed us to see another Christmas Season! AMEN! JESUS is the Reason for this Season. God so loved us that He gave His only Son to die for our sins. We truly thank Father God for the Greatest Gift that has ever been given! When we receive Christ as our Lord and Saviour—then—we are truly saying Thank You Father God! When we love everyone with God's Agape Love, then we are truly

saying Thank You Father God! The Joy of the Lord is our strength and the Joy of Christmas is having the Gift of God living in our hearts and our lives. Let's make this Christmas one filled with love and joy.

We wish each of you a Blessed and Joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with God's Grace and Mercy!

**Pastor and First Lady William and Emily**



may you know  
the comfort & joy  
of God's  
presence this  
Christmas  
season & always!

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## The Greatest Gift

Velma Cadore Gray

Greetings in the name of Jesus, our Lord and Savior. Here we are in December 2011; the time has truly flown by. We've come this far by Faith, leaning and depending on the Lord. Let us try to remember the Reason for the season, Jesus' birth. Even though we may get busy with all the commercial events that take place, the shopping, eating and some spending money we don't have, always try and keep **Christ** in your **Christmas!**

We give thanks to God for bringing us this far, to see another December, and seeing just how fast this year has gone by, with all the daily trials and tribulations we may encounter, reminding us that we must get in a hurry doing what thus said the Lord! Always trying to do what's right, to treat everyone with respect and love one another with the love of Christ. Which is something we must do daily! I can remember one year for our Christmas program, Venicia was given a poem to say, entitled "The Greatest Gift" she was about 5 or 6 years old and she memorized that poem, and stood on that 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday morning, and recited it so beautifully. It was such a lovely poem and it summed up the true meaning of Christmas so well. So again, when preparing for this holiday season, don't get to wrapped up in the decorating, shopping and gift buying but remember to keep Christ in your Christmas for He is the "**Greatest Gift**".



**ALL HIGH SCHOOL JUNIORS & SENIORS!**

**THERE ARE FREE HIGH SCHOOL PROGRAMS**

**AT HOWARD UNIVERSITY**

**SCHOOL OF BUSINESS**

**Please contact Minister Leonard Harrel for more information.**

## A December Birthday Wish

Submitted by 1st Lady Emily Davis

We join with you today  
For your birthday celebration  
We hope you have a special time  
On this wonderful occasion

We pray you will always know  
How special you are to us  
And how special you are to the Lord  
For he loves you very much

Hope you have a really great day  
In what you plan to do  
And even though we can't be there  
We are thinking of you!

May you know God's goodness  
And feel his presence more  
For today and everyday  
May you be blessed  
Of the Lord

**Happy Birthday!**





## It's Prayer Time

Gloria J. Gray



**Pray without ceasing.**

**1 Thessalonians 5:17**

To God be the glory for all his blessings and mercy that he has bestowed on all.

I am so thankful to witness the last month of year 2011. December is filled with so much excitement – decorations of beautiful colors inside and outside of your home and in the neighborhood. But I am overjoyed to tell everyone who reads this article that this month, yes this month is an exciting, awesome, and blessed month.

The star in the East which lead the shepherds to Bethlehem, is where they found Mary and Joseph and the babe lying in a manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. That baby was our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. There was no room for them in the inn. We celebrate the morn that gave the world God's gift of love – the day that Christ was born. Glory, Alleluia!

### **Christmas**

Once again it is the season when we celebrate His birth. Let us greet the Baby Jesus; fill His day with joy and mirth.

Honor Him in church with worship, carol singing, chiming bells. Hail the infant born of Mary as the gospel story tells.

Open up the Christmas stockings and the gifts beneath the tree. In your happiness remember God who gave His son for thee.

Silent night, when day is over hear again the sweet refrain. Lo, the Christ lives forever; in our hearts he will remain.

You pray for me and I will pray for you, and watch God change things! Love ye one another.

God is LOVE!



## The 12 days of Christmas

Tomeka L. Jones

Happy Holidays to all of you! We have been blessed to see the month of December. The Christmas season has geared up and is in full swing. This happens to be my favorite time of the year. I agree with the songwriter who wrote, *it's the most wonderful time of the year!* Christmas to me is a time of good cheer with family and friends.

As Christians, it is the time of year that we celebrate the birth of our Savior. Thanking Him for coming down to save all of us. It is truly a time to rejoice! December also marks the last month of the year. But before this year ends, I would incline you to join me in participating in the 12 days of Christmas. I know what you're thinking. What is the 12 days of Christmas? Well let me explain.

The 12 days of Christmas consists of you doing something nice for 12 special people in your life in 12 days. We will start on Monday, December 12, 2011. Each day, take a moment from your day just to let them know how much they mean to you. You can take them out for lunch, send them a card, a thoughtful text, FB message, or just a call to say thanks. For Christmas truly is the season of giving.

I encourage you to pick someone that wouldn't even expect it. One day choose a family member, the next a friend, a co-worker, an old teacher, etc. Reach out and talk with someone you haven't spoken to in years. Remember, as we are closing out this year, we do not know what 2012 holds for us. Let's not take for granted, those extra special people that God has placed into our lives. We should let them know how much we appreciate them.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus states, "That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another." To take it even further, do something nice for someone who doesn't particularly like you. As my mother taught us, kill them with kindness. Show them the Christ that is on the inside of you. Luke 6: 27-38 highlights this.

So please join me in the 12 days of Christmas challenge. 'Tis the season of giving, loving and sharing. Remember to always keep the Christ in Christmas! Happy Holidays to you and your family!





“Thanks be unto God for His Unspeakable Gift”!

## Words To Live By

If my life was a credit report and I was trying to obtain salvation, based on my score I wouldn't get it.

My history shows that I've been delinquent in praise, past due in prayer, my worship has been in collections and I've missed a few payments (**tithes**) or only paid half (*you know how we put \$20 in the basket and feel like we've done God a favor*).

Please don't mention that my debt (**sin**) to income (**blessings**) ratio is too high!

But I thank God that I was able to file bankruptcy (**repentance**) and it cleared me of all of my debt (**sin**). Now I have a co-signer (**Jesus**) whose score is FLAWLESS... not one blemish (**sin**) on his report.

So now, **I QUALIFY for EVERYTHING!** And most importantly, I've inherited eternal life and I didn't have to put one penny down.

All of my closing costs were covered when

Jesus laid down His life for me!!!!

I hear that my future home has all of the upgrades too. Does my future home have hard wood floors? Please!! I'll be walking on gold!

As the holiday season is upon us and the year comes to a close, let us reflect on the most outstanding gift one could ever receive. God loved us so very much that He gave us his very best. He gave us his darling Son and our Savior, **Jesus Christ**.

As we experience the joy and excitement that this season brings, let us remember the true reason for the celebration-the gift of **JESUS!**

Because of this extraordinary gift, our lives have changed for the best. Once we receive Jesus into our hearts, we experience a transformation of our existence in its entirety. No longer are we subject to the things of this world, but we become new creatures in Christ.

Our thought pattern changes, our emotions change from loving some to loving all. We

experience a joy in giving and a special joy in living. Our actions and reactions reflect the victorious beings that we have become. And in all things we learn to give God the praise for all that he has done, is doing and shall do. We are now faith walkers, unknown tongue speakers, lovers of God, prayer warriors, doers of his word, submitters to his will and vessels of his service.

Thank God for His precious gift of **Jesus** our **Lord, Savior and Redeemer!**

Thanks be unto God for his **unspeakable gift**.  
*2 Corinthians 9:15*





# JESUS IS THE REASON FOR THE SEASON!

## Mary's Song

Submitted by 1st Lady Emily Davis

My soul doth magnify  
And glory in the Lord  
His lowly handmaiden  
He has chosen over all  
My spirit doth rejoice  
Over God my saviour  
For He has truly blessed me  
And shown great favour...

Blessed and exalted  
Is the fruit of her womb  
The promise from ages past  
Was coming very soon  
I wonder if Mary  
The servant of the Lord  
Understood with depth  
The magnitude of her call

The son she brought forth  
Called Holy and righteous  
Blessed Prince of Peace  
Forever there to guide us  
Did she know that Jesus  
Is the name above all names?  
That no one else can save us  
And take away our shame

Did Mary know His future  
And who He really was?  
Did she know the price He'd pay  
Upon the blood-stained cross?  
Oh a mother's heart must ache  
To see her first born son  
Hanging from a wooden cross  
Rejected by everyone

Did she know that He would rise  
And walk among them again?  
To eat and drink and share with them  
Until He would ascend  
He left with us His Holy Spirit  
Forever to dwell inside  
I wonder if Mary ever knew  
The significance of His life

**Jesus**  
is the  
**Reason**  
for the  
**Season**



## True Christian Christmas

Christmas isn't showy gifts  
Or glittering decoration;  
It's honoring our Savior, Jesus Christ  
In humble adoration.

It's serving those less fortunate,  
Meeting their needs before our own;  
It's making sure at Christmas time  
That no one is alone.

It's taking what we would have spent  
On things that no one needs,  
And using it to help someone  
With service and good deeds.  
Our Savior showed us how to live  
With charity, faith and service.

It makes the holidays a joy,  
More peaceful, and less nervous.  
So let's remember Christmas is  
About our Savior's birth;  
That's the way to happiness,  
The way to peace on earth.

Joanna Fuchs

## The Greatest Gift

Under the stars he lay  
His small body surrounded by hay  
Mary and Joseph stood by  
His father looked down from on high  
The gift of love.

God gave to you and me  
A precious gift that would set us  
free

Jesus came down from above  
He gave us this great gift of love  
The greatest gift.

Now then in me and you  
A symbol of this love's born anew  
God gave me this love to live  
And therefore unto you I give  
My gift of love

**Merry**  
**Christmas!**  
and a  
*Blessed New Year*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Wednesday, December 7th & 14th at 6:00 p.m. are the last two sessions of 2011's Fellowship & Fitness Classes. All ladies are welcome!

Saturday, December 10th at 3:00 p.m., Youth Ministry Christmas Fellowship for all Youth of FBC!

Sunday, December 18th at 6:00 p.m., Christmas Program and Drama!

Sunday, December 25th at 8:00 a.m., Christmas Worship Service. There will be no Sunday School! Merry Christmas!

Friday, December 30th at 6:00 p.m., Deacon Meeting & at 7:00 p.m. General Church Meeting.

Sunday, January 1, 2012 at 11:00 a.m., New Year's Day Holy Communion Service! Happy New Year!



**Join Us On Sundays @ 11:00 a.m.!**



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